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By:

*Nancy Foster*  
Nancy Foster

PATENT APPLICATION

Customer Number: 22,852

Attorney Docket No. 4853.0072-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

NOV 22 2002

In re Application of:

Norimasa OKUDA et al.

Serial No.: 09/870,483

Group Art Unit: 1623 TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Filed: June 1, 2001

Examiner: Taylor V. Oh

Title: A METHOD FOR PRODUCING  
 $\alpha$ -HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACID

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Applicants now respond to the Office Action dated July 16, 2002. The period to respond has been extended to November 16, 2002 with the attached Petition for Extension of Time and payment of the requisite fee. Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 19 to read:

1. (Amended) A method for producing  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, which comprises hydrolyzing cyanohydrin in the presence of a hydrocarbon solvent selected from chain hydrocarbons containing 5 to 16 carbons, saturated monocyclic hydrocarbons containing between 6 and 16 carbon atoms, and aromatic hydrocarbons.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com